

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

STORY: NEW CREATION

BIG TRUTH: GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

John 15:15; Romans 5:6-11; Colossians 1:21-22; Hebrews 7:25

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 5:8,10

"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life."

BIG IDEAS

- Our sin makes us enemies of God.
- God gave His Son for us while we were still His enemies.
- Through Jesus we become friends of God.
- Friendship with God means our relationship with Him is restored.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 42-45; JOHN 15:12-14

Though Joseph's brothers mistreated him greatly, when he sees them again years later, he chooses to forgive them. Even though they do not recognize him, nor do they ask for his forgiveness, he gives it. They were once his enemies, but his forgiveness allows them to be his friends. God's forgiveness of our sin allows us to be His friends.

STORY: NEW CREATION

Part of the beauty of the gospel is that God does not just rescue us from the power of sin, but He is also making everything new. God offers new creation to those who place their faith in Jesus. This newness comes in two ways. The first is that by breaking the power of sin, Jesus is making men and women into brand new people with new identities. Second, God is not only making people new, but He is also going to make a new heaven and a new earth for us to live on and worship Him in.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know that:

- God offers us a new relationship with Him through Jesus



Every child should feel:

- Valued by God because of the new relationship He offers



Every child should:

- Remember the sacrifice of Jesus that makes it possible to have a new relationship with God



Every child should want:

- To be a part of God's family as one of His holy, chosen people

FAMILY DEVOTION: FRIENDS OF GOD

God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt that we might be reconciled to God. When we are forgiven of our sins and become followers of Christ, we are no longer God's enemies, but He calls us friend.

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In our sin, we are enemies of God.

- Sin in our hearts causes everything we do to be corrupt and sinful.
- Our hearts lead us to reject God, and to walk away from Him and His ways.
- Because we are held captive by our sin, we do not seek to please God.
- Instead, we seek to do the opposite of what God requires or asks.
- We seek to please ourselves and to bring glory to ourselves.
- This sin causes us to be His enemies and make us separate from Him.
- Our hearts are set against God and His Word.

In His love, God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and to reconcile us to Him.

- God's love is perfect and right. His love is unlike any other.
- He loves us even while we are His enemies. Even while our hearts reject Him and rebel against Him, He loves us.
- He loves us so much that He willingly sent His only Son to die for our sin.
- He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt that we might be reconciled to God.
- Jesus reconciles us to God through His death and resurrection.
- We do not love like God loves. God loves us and willingly sacrificed for us even though we reject and rebel against Him.

We are no longer enemies, but friends of God through Jesus.

- Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we are no longer God's enemies.
- Once we repent of our sin and place our faith in Jesus, we are reconciled to God.
- We are made His friends. We are no longer exiled from Him or estranged.
- We are part of His family and we are in a relationship with Him.
- This is made possible because of God's sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf.

BIBLE STORY: GENESIS 42-45; JOHN 15:12-14

Joseph and His Brothers

Opening Illustration:

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group construction paper and pencils. Have each group trace one another's hands. After they finish, have the children write their names on the hands and then write something that God offers to us, such as hope and friendship. Help the children glue or tape their hands to a paper plate to make a wreath around the edge of the paper plate. Talk with the children about how God offers us many things. He offers us hope and friendship. He offers us new life. All of these things are offered to us through Jesus.

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

BIG IDEA: OUR SIN MAKES US ENEMIES OF GOD.

Our sinful hearts cause us to reject God and rebel against Him.

- No one seeks God. We are all led by our sinful hearts.
- Our hearts lead us to rebel against God.
- We do not seek to please God or bring Him glory.
- Instead, we seek to please ourselves.
- We seek our own way, which leads us to death and destruction.
- We reject God by denying Him, and by not living for Him.
- We choose ourselves over Him and we choose to create our own gods.
- Joseph's brothers did not show him love.
- Instead, they rejected him out of their own sinful and jealous hearts.



Draw two faces on the board, "Friend Face" and "Enemy Face". Give each child a happy or sad face. Divide the children into two teams. Have the two teams race each other to see who can tape their faces in the correct circle the fastest. Talk with them about how we are enemies of God because of our sin, but Jesus makes a way for us to be His friend.

Because we reject God and rebel against Him, we become His enemies.¹

- Our rejection of God makes us His enemy.
- God is the Creator and Ruler of all life. He made the heavens, the earth, and all that is in them.
- All things come from Him and are made for Him.
- When we rebel against Him and reject Him, we are putting ourselves against the Creator of the world.
- We become His enemy. We fight against Him and serve the prince of the world, Satan.
- This rejection makes us exiles. We are separated from God because of our sinful hearts.
- Joseph's brothers were separated from him when they first came to Egypt.
- Their sin had caused a separation; they were his enemies.

How are we God's enemies? (Our sin makes us God's enemies because we reject Him and rebel against Him.)

1. Colossians 1:21: Our sin alienates us from God. It causes us to become His enemies.

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

BIG IDEA: GOD GAVE HIS SON FOR US WHILE WE WERE STILL HIS ENEMIES.²

God's love is perfect and unconditional.

- God is the beginning of all things, including love.
- God is love and we learn how to love from God.
- God loves us unconditionally.
- His love does not depend upon our actions. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love.
- He chooses to love us because it brings Him glory.
- His love is a perfect love. He showed His perfect love by sending His Son to pay our sin debt.

God loves us even though we reject Him.

- No one seeks God. No one is born loving God or desiring to know Him.
- God seeks out His own and draws them to Himself.
- We are born with a sin nature that rejects God.
- Our rejection of God makes us His enemies.
- God still loves us perfectly and unconditionally.
- He still sacrificed for us by sending His Son to die in our place.
- He sent Jesus even while we were still His enemies.



Play a game of “Pin the Heart On Joseph” by drawing the outline of Joseph on the board. Give each child a heart that says “friend”. Have the children answer questions about the story of Joseph and his brothers. When they answer correctly, blindfold them and have them place one of the hearts on Joseph. Remind them that God still sent Jesus to us even when we were His enemies like Joseph still helped his brothers though they were enemies.

What were we to God when He sent His Son? (We were His enemies.)

2. Romans 5:10: God loves us even when we reject Him.

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

BIG IDEA: THROUGH JESUS WE BECOME FRIENDS OF GOD.

God did not leave us as His enemies.

- God is a wise and loving God.
- He is all-knowing and His love is everlasting.
- Though we are His enemies, He did not leave us as His enemies.
- There is nothing that we can do to become friends with God.
- Our hearts are held captive by our sin. We cannot do anything to earn a place as God's friend.
- Our hearts lead us to sin in every way. Even the good things we do are done for our own glory out of our pride of self.



Bring in a straw and a balloon for each child. Have the children race each other as they try to move their balloon across the table with the straw. Talk with them about how the way they are moving their balloons is with their straws. The way God made for us to be His friend is through Jesus.

God made the ultimate sacrifice to make us His friends.³

- Because we could never pay our own sin debt, some other sacrifice had to be made.
- In order for our sin debt to be paid fully, a perfect sacrifice had to be made.
- Because death is the wage of our sin, someone had to die in order to pay our debt.
- God made a way for us by sending His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus came as a baby, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose again on the third day.
- Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are the way God made for us to be His friends.
- Because of Jesus, we can now be friends with God instead of enemies.
- Jesus paid our sin debt and we are no longer separated from God.

How did God make a way for us to be friends? (He sent Jesus to pay our sin debt.)

3. Romans 4:25: Jesus died for our sin. He paid the ultimate price for us so that we might be friends with God.

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

BIG IDEA: FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD MEANS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM IS RESTORED.⁴

Jesus gives us forgiveness and new life.

- When God sent Jesus to the world, He made a way for our sin to be forgiven.
- Through Jesus, we can have our sin forgiven. Our hearts can be set free from the sin nature that controls us.
- Jesus also offers new life to us.
- When our hearts are made new, we are no longer the same.
- Our desires and thoughts are different.
- Joseph's brothers were different when they came to see him.
- They were sorry for the way they had treated him when they sold him into slavery.
- They knew that they had wronged him.



Give each child a piece of paper and marker. Help the children write down or draw pictures of what it means to be a good friend. Help them think through what it means to be a good friend. Talk with them about how God makes us His friends and He restores our relationship to Him.

God restores our relationship with Him when He makes us His friend.

- The forgiveness we receive when we repent and follow Jesus gives us much more than eternal life in heaven.
- Our relationship with God is restored and we can have a personal walk with Him.
- Friendship with God means we have access to God always.
- He lives in us through His Spirit, guiding us to become more like His Son, Jesus.
- We are no longer separated from God by our sin.
- We are united with Him in friendship just as Joseph and his brothers were united.
- The relationship between Joseph and his brothers was restored and they could live as a family again.

What does friendship with God mean? (It means that our relationship with God is restored.)

4. Romans 5:6: God made us His friends and reconciled us to Him through Jesus.

GOD OFFERS FRIENDSHIP WHEN WE ARE ENEMIES

HOOKS



Friend Versus Enemy

Divide the children into small groups. Write “Friend” on one side of the board and “Enemy” on the other. Before class, write several Bible verses that describe how we should love one another and several that describe how we are enemies of God or what we are like when we live according to the flesh. For example, use Matthew 22:37-39 as an example of how we should love and Colossians 3:5 as an example of living according to the flesh. Place the verses in a bowl and have the groups race each other to grab a verse. Decide if it should go in the friend or enemy pile. Place it there and then race back to their team. Once the game is finished, talk with the children about how God makes us His friends through Jesus.



Friend and Enemy Tag

Give each child, except one, a tag that says “enemy”. Help the children place the tags on their backs. Next, give the child without a tag several tags that say “friend”. Play a game of tag where the one child has to tag the other children by placing the “friend” tag on their backs. Play several times, giving other children the opportunity to be “it”. Once the game is finished, talk with them about how God makes us His friends through Jesus.

